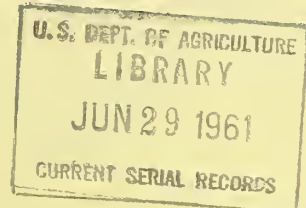


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FOOD PREVIEW



A summary of the food outlook especially designed to give maximum advance information to food editors to help them plan food features.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

May 17, 1961
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MEAT.....Meat production during 1961 will total about the same as in 1960--possibly slightly higher. But, because of the growth in population, per person consumption this year probably will drop about a pound.

Beef.....Through June of this year, beef supplies should remain close to those in the first half of 1960. During the last six months of this year, supplies may cause consumption per person to drop slightly.

Pork.....Production during the first quarter of 1961 was down 8 percent from a year earlier and seasonal declines will continue through early summer. By mid-summer, however, pork supplies should rise above those of 1960.

Lamb.....Both lamb and mutton may be less plentiful throughout the rest of the year than it has been so far. During the first quarter of 1961, production was 11 percent greater than a year earlier.

POULTRY & EGGS:

Broiler-Fryers...Production from January through April of 1961 was 16 percent above last year, and during the next 3 months it is expected to increase even more.

Turkeys.....Output in the first 4 months of 1961 rose 55 percent above 1961, and recent poult hatchings suggest an increase of almost 25 percent for the following 5 or 6 months.

Eggs.....Egg production, which in March exceeded year-ago output for the first time in 17 months, is now declining seasonally, but a steadily larger supply than in 1960 is predicted for the second half of this year.

DAIRY.....Milk production for the remainder of 1961 may be 2 percent greater than a year earlier. The reason: Favorable milk-feed price relationships will encourage a greater output per cow. Total milk production is expected to be higher than the 123 billion pounds of last year and could possibly break the record 125 billion of 1956.

VEGETABLES:

Fresh.....It looks like supplies of vegetables for fresh market sale will be moderately smaller during the next few weeks than a year earlier. Melon production is 19 percent below the 1960 output. Production of other spring crops, which make up three-fourths of the total spring vegetable tonnage, will total 7 percent less than last spring. There'll be a good supply of summer vegetables during July with local gardens supplying a broad variety to supplement shipments from commercial growing areas.

Potatoes are in plentiful supply. Remaining supplies of old crop potatoes are significantly larger and early spring production of

4.2 million hundredweight is substantially larger than last year. Late spring production also will be large, and intentions to plant late summer and fall potatoes indicate a 7 percent increase in acreage over last year. An average growing season could result in large supplies.

Processed....Moderately less canned vegetables but considerably more frozen vegetables are available for the remainder of the present marketing season, which ends in mid-1961.

Canned...Supplies of canned vegetables are significantly smaller than a year ago. Sweet corn, green peas and beets are in especially short supply. Stocks of snap beans, tomatoes, tomato juice and most tomato products are down moderately to substantially from a year ago. Because of this reduced carryover--the smallest in several years--farmers probably will increase spring plantings. If they plant according to their intentions and if growing conditions are normal, there should be slightly more lima beans and kraut cabbage, moderately to substantially more snap beans, sweet corn and green peas for processing this fall. A more normal yield of tomatoes (last year's output was extremely high) will result in slightly smaller tonnage of tomatoes for processing.

Frozen...Except for green peas, all major frozen items are in ample supply. As of May 1, 800 million pounds of frozen vegetables were on hand, a record for that date.

FRUITS.....This year's peach crop in the 9 southern States may well be the largest since 1947, with 17 million bushels forecast. The May 1 condition of California Freestones was the second highest on record. Plum production in California is forecast at 90,000 tons--nearly 10 percent above last year's production. Strawberries will total about 1 percent less this year than last, but still slightly above average. Latest reports on the citrus harvest indicate an orange crop of 118 million boxes--7 percent less than last year and 3 percent below average. Grapefruit production is up 2 percent, but about the same as average. The lemon harvest, although down 20 percent from last year, is still 2 percent above average.

The Plentiful Foods Program

The Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program, is cooperating in these food campaigns:

June Dairy Month June 1 - 30

Mid-Summer Turkey Time